(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No recommendation on export of fertilizers to Bangladesh was made by the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Fertilizer Pricing which presented its Report in August, 1992.

(c) to (e) Ministry of Railways have informed that in two draft paras Audit has pointed out losses of Rs. 153.45 lakhs between January 1994 to February 1996 on Northern Railway and Rs. 9.74 lakhs between July 1994 to May 1996 on Eastern Railway on Export consignments of Single Super Phosphate (SSP) to Bangladesh. The Ministry of Railways have stated that normally no separate classification is prescribed for a commodity meant for export. Accordingly no separate classification for movement of SSP for export was presribed by them and that the traffic in this commodity booked to Bangladesh was charged at the prescribed tariff. Railways have not suffered any loss on this account. This issue has also been examined by the Commercial Committee of Interchange (CCI) consisting of all the Chief Commercial Managers of Zonal Railway who have stated that no separate classification for export traffic of this commodity needs to be prescribed.

[Translation]

Agricultural Pricing Policy

2092. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the condition of farmers has been becoming worse due to wide gap between the price of industrial and agricultural products ;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to formulate any agricultural policy so as to check price rise in agricultural products, in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) The main objectives of the Government's price policy for agricultural produce are aimed at ensuring the remunerative prices to the growers for their produce with a view to encourage higher investment and production and to safeguard the interests of the consumers by making available supplies at reasonable prices. The price policy seeks to evolve a balanced and integrated price structure in the perspective of the overall needs of the economy. The Government decides the price policy for major agricultural commodities after taking into account recommendations of the CACP, views of State Governments and Central Ministries. CACP while formulating its price policy recommendations *inter-alia*, takes into account the terms of trade between agriculture and non-agriculture sectors.

The Terms of Trade for agriculture sector has improved in recent years rising from 90.4 during 1993-94 to 91.2 during 1994-95 and further up to 93.9 during 1995-96. Efforts are being made to make the Terms of Trade more favourable towards agriculture.

[English]

Sexual Crime against Children

2093. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is steep increase in the number of cases of sexual crime against children in the country in ganeral and particularly in the matropoliton cities ;

(b) whether at present there is no law in the country dealing exclusively with child abuse ;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(d) whether there has been a long pending demand by cartain sections of our society that the law regarding the child sexual abuse be redefined for covering the entire range of offences committed against children ; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) Available information on the incidence of child rape during the years 1991 to 1995 and the incidence of selling & buying of girls for prostitution during the years 1994 to 1996 are given below :

S. No.	Year	Incidence of child rape
1.	1991	3729
2.	1992	3113
3.	1993	3393
4.	1994	3986
5.	1995	4067

Selling & Buying of girls for prostitution

S.No.	Year	Selling	Buying
1.	1994	34	4
2.	1995	17	19